

1-19. (CANCELED)

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~[[The]]~~ A ducted air power plant according to claim 18, comprising: a motor-driven fan for producing a high-pressure air stream; air splitter means for deriving a plurality of subsidiary air streams from the high-pressure air stream; a plurality of vectoring air-jet nozzles; and means for ducted delivery of the subsidiary air streams to respective ones of the vectoring air-jet nozzles; wherein the air splitter means comprises selectively-adjustable splitter means for splitting the high-pressure air-stream proportionally between the subsidiary air streams, the selectively-adjustable splitter means being selectively adjustable to vary the proportions with which the high-pressure air stream is split between the respective subsidiary air streams, and wherein the selectively-adjustable splitter means comprises a splitter plate, the splitter plate defining first and second duct-entry openings for receiving individual ones of the subsidiary air streams, a control-blade device mounted for angular displacement relative to the first and second duct-entry openings to vary the proportions by which air of the high-pressure air-stream is split between the first and second duct-entry openings, and means for selectively adjusting the angular displacement of the control-blade device for varying the proportions by which air of the high-pressure air-stream is split between the first and second duct-entry openings.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The ducted air power plant according to claim 20, wherein~~ A ducted air power plant comprising:

a motor-driven fan for producing a high-pressure air stream;

air splitter means for deriving a plurality of subsidiary air streams from the high-pressure air stream;

a plurality of vectoring air-jet nozzles; and

means for ducted delivery of the subsidiary air streams to respective ones of the vectoring air-jet nozzles;

the air splitter means comprises selectively-adjustable splitter means for splitting the high-pressure air-stream proportionally between the subsidiary air streams, the selectively-adjustable splitter means being selectively adjustable to vary the proportions with which the high-pressure air stream is split between the respective subsidiary air streams;

the selectively-adjustable splitter means comprises a splitter plate, the splitter plate defining first and second duct-entry openings for receiving individual ones of the subsidiary air streams, a control-blade device mounted for angular displacement relative to the first and second duct-entry openings, and means for selectively adjusting the angular displacement of the control-blade device for varying the proportions by which air of the high-pressure air-stream is split between the first and second duct-entry openings; and

the control-blade device comprises means defining a plurality of parallel passages for directing air of the high-pressure air stream into the first and second duct-entry openings in relative proportions dependent on the angular displacement of the control-blade device relative to the first and second duct-entry openings.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) [[The]] A ducted air power plant according to claim 18, comprising: a motor-driven fan for producing a high-pressure air stream; air splitter means for deriving a plurality of subsidiary air streams from the high-pressure air stream; a plurality of vectoring air-jet nozzles; and means for ducted delivery of the subsidiary air streams to respective ones of the vectoring air-jet nozzles; wherein the air splitter means comprises selectively-adjustable splitter means for splitting the high-pressure air-stream proportionally between the subsidiary air streams, the selectively-adjustable splitter means being selectively adjustable to vary the proportions with which the high-pressure air stream is split between the respective subsidiary air streams, and wherein the selectively-adjustable splitter means comprises a splitter plate, the splitter plate defining four duct-entry openings for individual ones of the subsidiary air streams, four control-blade devices each associated with a respective pair of the four duct-entry openings, each control-blade device being mounted for angular displacement relative to the two duct-entry openings of its respectively-associated pair of duct-entry openings to vary the proportions by which the high-pressure air-stream is split between the two duct-entry openings of the pair of duct-entry openings associated with that respective control-blade device, and means for selectively adjusting the angular displacement of each control-blade device for varying the proportions by which

the high-pressure air-stream is split between the two duct-entry openings of the pair of duct-openings associated with that respective control-blade device.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The ducted air power plant according to claim 22;~~ A ducted air power plant comprising:

a motor-driven fan for producing a high-pressure air stream;

air splitter means for deriving a plurality of subsidiary air streams from the high-pressure air stream;

a plurality of vectoring air-jet nozzles; and

means for ducted delivery of the subsidiary air streams to respective ones of the vectoring air-jet nozzles;

wherein the air splitter means comprises selectively-adjustable splitter means for splitting the high-pressure air-stream proportionally between the subsidiary air streams, the selectively-adjustable splitter means being selectively adjustable to vary the proportions with which the high-pressure air stream is split between the respective subsidiary air streams;

wherein the selectively-adjustable splitter means comprises a splitter plate, the splitter plate defining four duct-entry openings for individual ones of the subsidiary air streams, four control-blade devices each associated with a respective pair of the four duct-entry openings, each control-blade device being mounted for angular displacement relative to the two duct-entry openings of its respectively-associated pair of duct-entry openings, and means for selectively adjusting the angular displacement of each control-blade device for varying the proportions by which the high-pressure air-stream is split between the two duct-entry openings of the pair of duct-openings associated with that respective control-blade; and

wherein each control-blade device comprises means defining a plurality of parallel passages for directing air of the high-pressure air stream into the two duct-entry openings of its associated pair of duct-entry openings

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The ducted air power plant according to claim 22, including four servo motors for controlling the angular displacements respectively of the four control-blade devices.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The ducted air power plant according to claim [[18]] 22, including straightening blades for straightening flow of high-pressure air from the motor-driven fan.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A craft having a VTOL capability, the craft incorporating a ducted air power plant, and the ducted air power plant comprising: two pairs of vectoring air-jet nozzles, the two nozzles of each pair being spaced apart laterally on opposite sides of the craft and the two pairs of nozzles being spaced apart forward and rearward of the craft; a motor-driven fan for producing a high-pressure air stream; air splitter means for splitting the high-pressure air stream into four subsidiary air streams; and means for ducted delivery of the four subsidiary air streams to the four vectoring air-jet nozzles respectively; wherein the air splitter means comprises selectively-adjustable splitter means for splitting the high-pressure air-stream proportionally between the four subsidiary air streams, the selectively-adjustable splitter means being selectively adjustable to vary the proportions with which the high-pressure air stream is split between the four subsidiary air streams; and wherein the nozzles of the four vectoring air-jet nozzles are vectored by respective servo-motor controls, and wherein the selectively-adjustable splitter means comprises a splitter plate, the splitter plate defining four duct-entry openings for individual ones of the subsidiary air streams, four control-blade devices each associated with a respective pair of the four duct-entry openings, each control-blade device being mounted for angular displacement relative to the two duct-entry openings of its respectively-associated pair of duct-entry openings to vary the proportions by which the high-pressure air-stream is split between the two duct-entry openings of the pair of duct-entry openings associated with that respective control-blade device, and means for selectively adjusting the angular displacement of each control-blade device for varying the proportions by which the high-pressure air-stream is split between the two duct-entry openings of the pair of duct-openings associated with that respective control-blade.

27. (CANCELED)

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The craft according to claim 27,~~ A craft having a VTOL capability, the craft incorporating a ducted air power plant, and the ducted air power plant comprising: two pairs of vectoring air-jet nozzles, the two nozzles of each

pair being spaced apart laterally on opposite sides of the craft and the two pairs of nozzles being spaced apart forward and rearward of the craft; a motor-driven fan for producing a high-pressure air stream; air splitter means for splitting the high-pressure air stream into four subsidiary air streams; and means for ducted delivery of the four subsidiary air streams to the four vectoring air-jet nozzles respectively; wherein the air splitter means comprises selectively-adjustable splitter means for splitting the high-pressure air-stream proportionally between the four subsidiary air streams, the selectively-adjustable splitter means being selectively adjustable to vary the proportions with which the high-pressure air stream is split between the four subsidiary air streams; and wherein the nozzles of the four vectoring air-jet nozzles are vectored by respective servo-motor controls;

wherein the selectively-adjustable splitter means comprises a splitter plate, the splitter plate defining four duct-entry openings for individual ones of the subsidiary air streams, four control-blade devices each associated with a respective pair of the four duct-entry openings, each control-blade device being mounted for angular displacement relative to the two duct-entry openings of its respectively-associated pair of duct-entry openings, and means for selectively adjusting the angular displacement of each control-blade device for varying the proportions by which the high-pressure air-stream is split between the two duct-entry openings of the pair of duct-openings associated with that respective control-blade; and

wherein each control-blade device comprises means defining a plurality of parallel passages for directing air of the high-pressure air stream into the two duct-entry openings of its associated pair of duct-entry openings

29. (CANCELED)